

HABS  
NJ,  
7-NEARK,  
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Newark City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-229

P H O T O G R A P H S

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

Name: Newark City Hall. There are no secondary names.

Location: 920 Broad Street, East Side, bewtween Green St. & Franklin St., Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Present Owner: City of Newark, New Jersey

Present Occupant: Newark Municipal Government

Present Use: Newark Municipal Government Offices

Significance: Newark City Hall has long gone unnoticed by architectural historians, yet it is one of New Jersey's best examples of the Beaux Arts influence in American Public Architecture. When completed it represented the culmination of the political, social, and economic aspirations of the Nation's third oldest major city as it entered its 240th year.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

##### A. Physical History

1. Built between 1902 and 1906. Reference information may be found in attachment 1. Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were August 5, 1903 (see attachment II). The dedication ceremony was December 20, 1906 (see attachment III).
2. The architects John H. and Wilson C. Ely were assisted by Mowbray and Uffinger, who were known for a number of banks in Brooklyn and Hoboken and by Professor F.W. Chondler of the Boston School of Technology. Among the most notable works of John H. and Wilson C. Ely were the East Orange City Hall, and a number of buildings in Newark: The American Insurance Co. (now Rutgers Tower), the New Jersey Historical Society, the Mutual Life Insurance Building and the Fireman's Insurance Building. See attachment III and architectural drawings for references. \*
3. Newark City Hall was erected and furnished by E.M. Waldron and Co., Blake & Williams, the Electric Motor & Equipment Co., Otis Elevator Co., Art Metal Construction Co., the Bowne Co., Amos H. Van Horn Ltd., Herring Hall Marvin Safe Co., W & J Sloan Vacuum Cleaner Co., and Gamewell Fire Tel. Co. The consulting engineer was James M. Seymour Jr. The stone is New Hampshire granite and its inside is decorated with marble.
4. See attachment IV and enclosed architectural drawings. The original drawings are located in Newark City Hall, Department Engineering.

\*According to the newspaper article (attachment III) Chandler was retained as consulting architect who critiqued the submissions and picked the winner

## 5. Alteration"

The "marche" as one moves through the first floor has been enhanced by the corridor which has been cut through from the first floor to the Annex. The connecting bridge which carries this corridor and the annex were designed by Frank Grad in 1928.

The corridors were originally lit with hanging bowl lamps, some of which have been replaced with florescent fixtures.

The bronze letter "City Hall" were placed on the Mayor's balcony on February 14, 1951.

## B. Historical Context:

The structure now, and always, has served as the seat of the municipal government for the City of Newark.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Description of Exterior: See attachment V
- B. Description of Interior: See attachment V
- C. Site: The front facade is on Broad Street and faces west. The north facade is on Green Street and the south facade is on Franklin Street. The east facade is the rear of the building. Attachment VI shows the present landscaping.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: See enclosures
- B. Early views: See attachment VII
- C. Bibliography
  - (a) Manuscript collection of the New Jersey Reference Division of the Newark Public Library.
  - (b) National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for Newark City Hall - 1977
- D. Newark City Hall: Architectural Significance and Context, Donald W. Geyer, 351 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey  
The Architecture of Choice: Eclecticism in America 1880-1930, Walter C. Kidney, George Braziller, Inc., 1974, p.20
- E. Supplemental Material: Attachments VIII & IX

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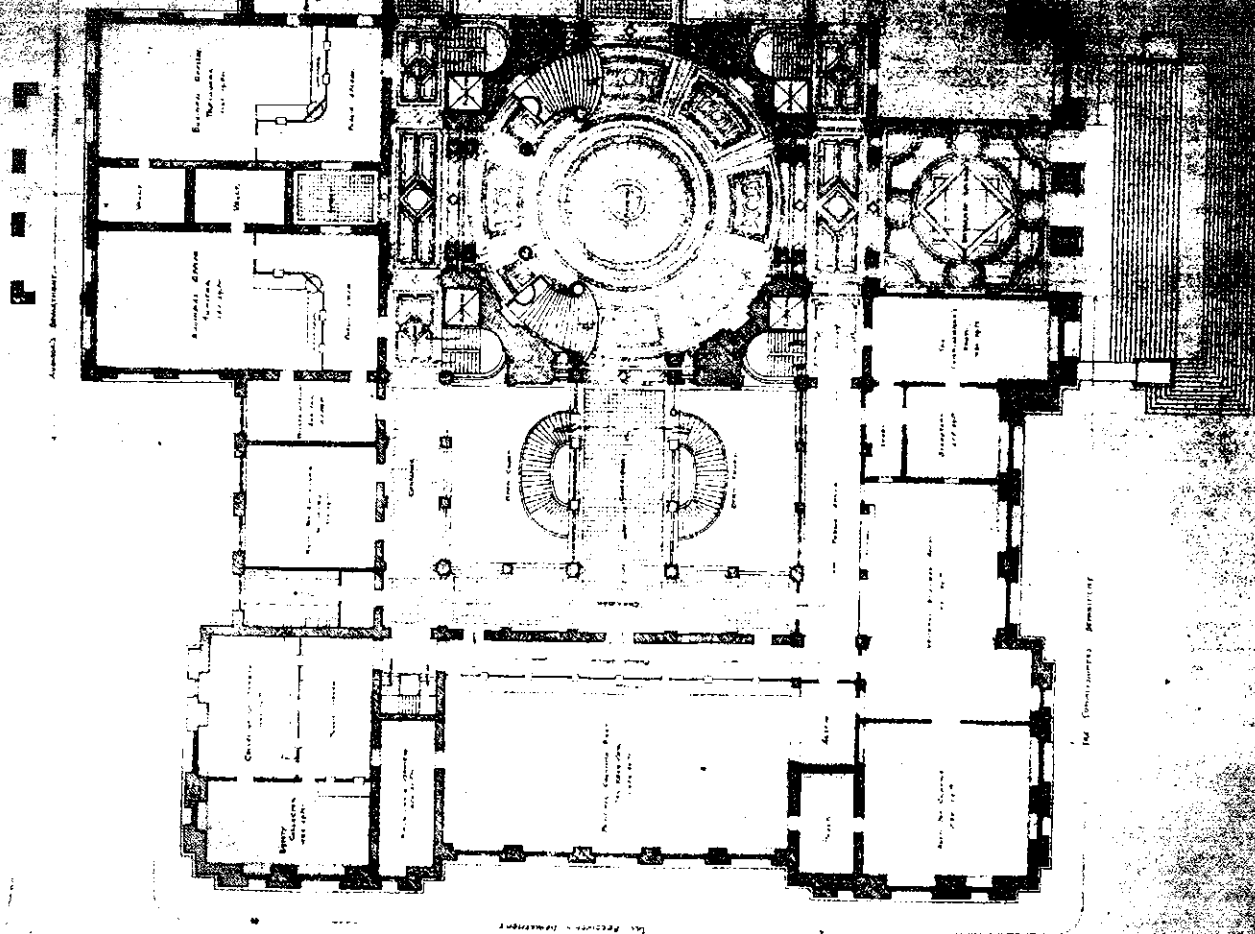
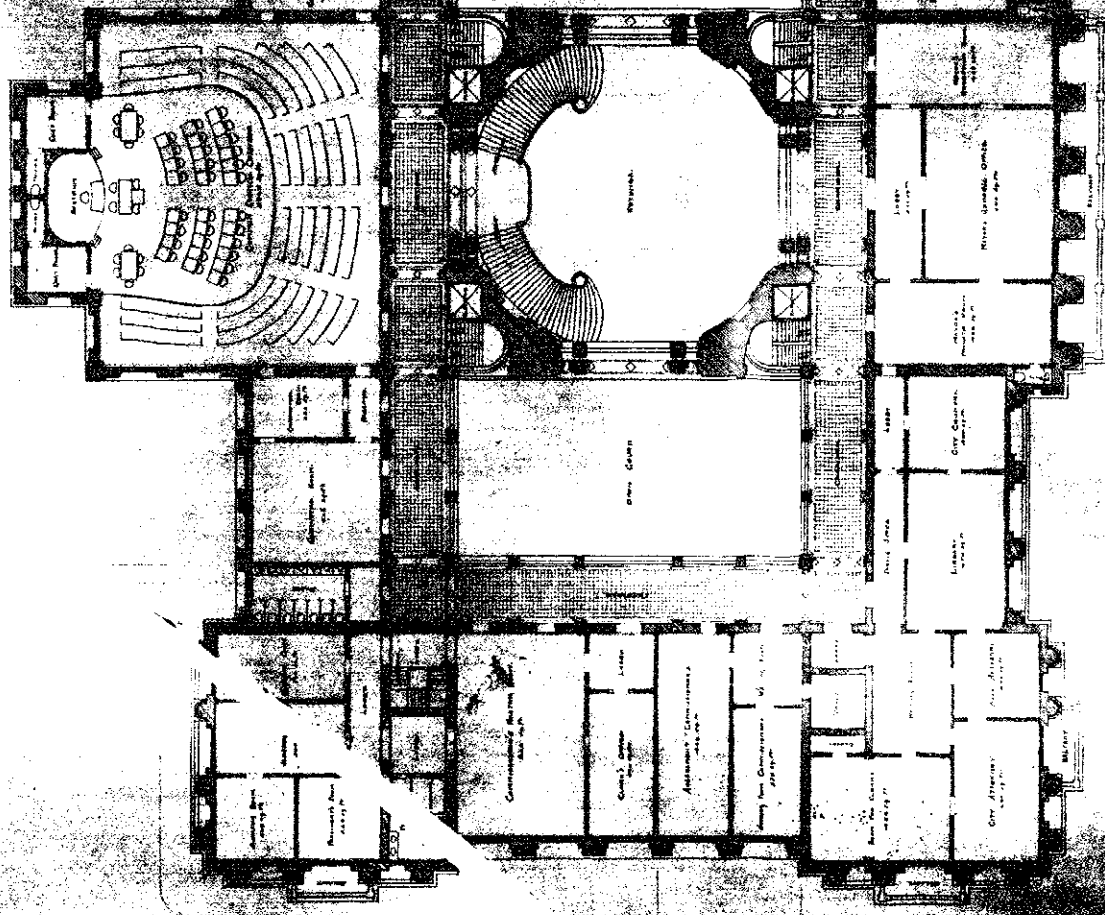


FIG. 1

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT



EXECUTIVE

- SECOND FLOOR PLAN -